IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9-11, 15-19, 21, 23, 25, 27-32, and ADD new claims 36 and 37 in accordance with the following:

1.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information providing server<u>,</u> comprising:

a storing section storing a display control file including a character string and a control character string for controlling a display, wherein the display control file is provided to a client according to a <u>search</u> request from the client;

a holding section holding an index image which displays <u>contents of</u> a home page displayed according to the display control file and a display file relating to the display control file by a single picture; and

a providing section providing ~~an~~ <u>the</u> index image held by the holding section according to ~~a~~ <u>the search</u> request ~~from~~ <u>to</u> a searching server, wherein the providing section provides, to the searching server, ~~an~~ <u>the</u> index image to be included in a searched result corresponding to ~~a~~ <u>the</u> ~~search~~searching request that the searching server receives from the client, the searched result including the index image is provided from the searching server to the client, wherein the index image displays a latest state of the first screen of the home page.

2.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An information providing server according to claim 1, further comprising an index image creating section creating the index image on the basis of the display control file.

3.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information providing server according to claim 1, wherein the storing section stores the display file related to the display control file, and ~~wherein~~ the index image displays the home page displayed on the basis of the display control file and the display file by the single picture.

4.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A mediation server providing a client with a file relating to a home page held by an information providing server, comprising:

an index image creating section creating an index image corresponding to each file received from the information providing server wherein each index image displays contents of a home page relating to each file by a single picture;

a storing section storing the index image created by the index image creating section;

a receiving section receiving a ~~searching~~ search request from the client;

a searching section searching a file corresponding to the search~~searching~~ request, obtaining an index image corresponding to the searched file from said storing section, and generating a searched result corresponding to the search~~searching~~ request, the searched result including the obtained index image and link information to be accessed by the information providing server; and

a transmitting section transmitting, to the client, the searched result generated by said searching section, wherein the index image displays a latest state of the first screen of the home page.

5.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A mediation server according to claim 4, wherein the transmitting section transmits the index image, the link information and a corresponding file received from the information providing server to the client.

6.   (CANCELLED)

7.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A mediation server providing a client with a file held in an information providing server, comprising:

an element information storage section collecting and storing element information of each home page held by the information providing server;

a searching section extracting an element information corresponding to a search ~~searching~~ request given from the client from the element information storage section;

an index image creating section creating an index image corresponding to the element information extracted by the searching section wherein the created index image displays contents of a home page corresponding to the extracted element information by a single picture; and

a transmitting section transmitting a searched result including the created index image, as a response corresponding to the search ~~searching~~ request, created by the index image creating section to the client, wherein the index image displays a latest state of the first screen of the home page.

4

8.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A mediation server according to claim 7, further comprising a display control file creating section creating a display control file including the element information extracted by said searching section and the index image created by said index image creating section,

wherein the transmitting section transmitting a searched result including a display control file, as the response corresponding to the request, created by the display control file creating section to the client.

9.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A mediation server providing a client with files held by a plurality of information providing servers, comprising:

an element information storage section collecting and storing element information of each home page held by each of the information providing servers;

an index image creating section creating and holding an index image corresponding to element information of each home page collected by said element information storage section wherein the index image displays contents of a home page corresponding to the element information by a single picture;

a searching section extracting, from the index image creating section, an index image corresponding to a search searching request given from the client; and

a transmitting section transmitting a searched result including the index image extracted by the searching section, as a response to the search searching request to the client, wherein the index image displays a latest state of the first screen of the home page.

10.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A mediation server according to claim 9, wherein the searching section extracts, from the element information storage section, element information corresponding to the search searching request given from the client,

the mediation server further comprises a display control file creating section creating a display control file including the element information extracted and an index image corresponding to the element information, and

the transmitting section transmits to the client a searching searched result including the display control file, as a response to the search searching request, created by the display control file creating section.

11.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A reference terminal for referring to a file of a home

5

page, the file is held by an information providing server and including a display control file and a display file related to the display control file, comprising:

a transmitting/receiving section transmitting a <u>search</u> ~~searching~~ request of the file to a mediation server and receiving a searched result from the mediation server;

an index image creating section automatically creating an index image which displays <u>contents of</u> a home page displayed on the basis of the display control file and the display file received from the information providing server by a single picture, wherein the display control file and the display file corresponds to the searched result; and

a display section displaying contents of the searched result received from the mediation server together with the index image, wherein the index image displays a latest state of the first screen of the home page.

12.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A reference terminal according to claim 11, wherein the index image creating section, when a plurality of files are received, respectively creates an index image corresponding to each of the files received, and

the display section sequentially displays the plurality of index images created while being changed over.

13.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A reference terminal according to claim 11, wherein the index image creating section, when a plurality of files are received, respectively creates an index image corresponding to each of the files received, and

the display section displays the plurality of index images and a piece of character information included in the searched result in arrangement on the same window.

14.   (ORIGINAL) A reference terminal according to claim 11, wherein the index image creating section, when a plurality of files are received, respectively creates the index images corresponding to each of the files received in accordance with a predetermined priority, and

the display control section sequentially displays the plurality of created index images in the sequence of being created by the index image creating section.

15.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information providing method in which an information providing server provides another server with a display control file including a display character string and a control character string for controlling a display, comprising:

creating an index image displaying <u>contents of</u> a home page displayed on the basis of

the display control file by a single picture; and

transmitting an the index image created together with the display control file to a searching server according to a search request from to the searching server, wherein the searching server receives a the search searching request form from a client, creates a searched result corresponding to the search searching requesting request including the display control file and the index image that receives from the information providing server, and transmits the searched result to the client, wherein the index image displays a latest state of the first screen of the home page.

16.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information providing method in which an information providing server provides another server with a display control file and a display file relating to the display control file, comprising:

creating an index image displaying contents of a home page displayed on the basis of the display control file and the display file by a single picture; and

transmitting the index image together with the display control file to a searching server according to a search request from the searching server, wherein the searching server receives a the search searching request from a client, creates a searched result corresponding to the search searching request including a display control file and an index image that receives from the information providing server, and transmits the searched result to the client, wherein the index image displays a latest state of the first screen of the home page.

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17.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An information providing method of a mediation server, comprising:

obtaining element information of each home page held in an information providing server;

extracting a piece of element information corresponding to a search request given from a client among the obtained element information;

creating a searched result corresponding to the search searching request including an index image which displays contents of a home page corresponding to the extracted element information by a single picture; and

transmitting the searched result including the created index image to the client, wherein the index image displays a latest state of the first screen of the home page.

18.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information providing method of a mediation

server according to claim 17, further comprising:

creating a searched result corresponding to the search searching request including a display control file including the extracted element information and the created index image; and

transmitting the searched result including the display control file to the client.

19.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information providing method of a mediation server, comprising:

obtaining and storing element information of home pages held by an information providing server;

creating and holding index images which respectively display contents of a home page corresponding to each of the stored element information by a single picture;

extracting an index image corresponding to a search searching request given from a client from the held index images; and

transmitting a search result corresponding to the search searching request including the extracted index image to the client, wherein the index image displays a latest state of the first screen of the home page.

20.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An information providing method of a mediation server according to claim 19, further comprising:

extracting a piece of element information corresponding to the extracted index image among the stored element information;

creating a display control file including the extracted element information and the extracted index image; and

transmitting a searched result including the created display control file to the client.

21.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information reference method of a reference terminal, comprising:

receiving a searched result corresponding to a search searching request for a file from a searching server;

receiving a file corresponding to the searched result from an information providing server, the received file containing a display control file and a display file;

automatically creating an index image displaying contents of a home page on the basis of the display control file and the display file by a single picture; and

displaying the created index image together with the searched result, wherein the index

8

image displays a latest state of the first screen of the home page.

22.　(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An information reference method of a reference terminal according to claim 21, further comprising displaying contents of the received file together with the index image.

23.　(CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable medium recorded with programs executed by a computer, the programs comprising:

a program by which an information providing server creates an index image, wherein the index image displays, by a single picture, <u>contents of</u> a home page on the basis of a display control file including a display character string and control character string for controlling displaying; and

a program by which the information providing server transmits to a mediation server the created index image in response to a request given from the mediation server, wherein the mediation server receives a <u>search</u> ~~searching~~ request from a client, creates a searched result corresponding to the <u>search</u> ~~searching~~ request including a display control file and an index image that receives from the information providing server, and transmits the searched result to the client, wherein the index image displays a latest state of the first screen of the home page.

24.　(ORIGINAL) A computer readable medium according to claim 23, wherein the programs further comprises a program by which the information providing server transmits the display control file together with the index image to the mediation server.

25.　(CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable medium recorded with programs executed by a computer, the programs comprising:

a program by which an information providing server creates an index image, wherein the index image displays, by a single picture, <u>contents of</u> home page on the basis of a display control file and a display file relating to the display control file; and

a program by which the information providing server transmits to a mediation server the created index image in response to a request given from the mediation server, wherein the mediation transmits to a client a searched result including the index image corresponding to a <u>search</u> ~~searching~~ request from the client, wherein the index image displays a latest state of the first screen of the home page.

26.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein the programs further comprises a program by which the information providing server transmits the display control file together with the index image to the mediation server.

27.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable medium recorded with programs executed by a computer, the programs comprising:

a program by which a mediation server collects a piece of element information of each file held by an information providing server;

a program by which the mediation server extracts a piece of element information corresponding to a search searching request given from a client among the collected element information ;

a program by which the mediation server creates a searched result corresponding to the search searching request including an index image which displays contents of a home page corresponding to the extracted element information by a single picture; and

a program by which the mediation server transmits the searched result including the created index image to the client, wherein the index image displays a latest state of the first screen of the home page.

28.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable medium according to claim 27, wherein the programs further comprises:

a program by which the mediation server creates a searched result corresponding to the search searching request including a display control file including the extracted element information and the created index image ; and

a program by which the mediation server transmits the searched result including the created display control file to the client.

29.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable medium recorded with programs executed by a computer, wherein the programs comprising:

a program by which a mediation server collects a plurality of element information of files held by an information providing server;

a program by which the mediation server creates index images which respectively display contents of a home page corresponding to each of the collected element information ;

a program by which the mediation server extracts an index image corresponding to a search searching request given from a client among the created index images and generates a

10

searched result corresponding to the <u>search</u> <s>searching</s> request including the extracted index image; and

a program by which the mediation server transmits the searched result to the client, wherein the index image displays a latest state of the first screen of the home page.

30.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer readable medium according to claim 29, wherein the programs further comprising:

a program by which the mediation server extracts an element information corresponding to a <u>search</u> <s>searching</s> request given from a client among the collected element information ;

a program by which the mediation server creates a searched result corresponding to the <u>search</u> <s>searching</s> request including a display control file including the extracted element information and the extracted index image file; and

a program by which the mediation server transmits the searched result to the client.

31.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable medium recorded with a program executed by a computer, wherein the programs comprising:

a program by which a reference terminal receives a searched result corresponding to a <u>search</u> <s>searching</s> request for a file from a mediation server;

a program by which the reference terminal receives from an information providing server a display control file and display file related to the display control file corresponding to the searched result;

a program by which the reference terminal automatically creates an index image displaying <u>contents of</u> a home page displayed on the basis of the display control file and the display file by a single picture; and

a program by which the reference terminal displays the created index image together with the searched result, wherein the index image displays a latest state of the first screen of the home page.

32.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information providing server, providing a client with a home page including image and text according to a request of the client, comprising:

a storing section storing a display control file for displaying the home page on a screen of the client;

a holding section holding a piece of index image data for displaying <u>contents of</u> a home page displayed on the basis of the display control file by a single picture; and

a providing section providing the index image data with a mediation server in response to a request given from the mediation server, wherein the mediation server receives a <u>search</u> ~~searching~~ request from the client, creates a searched result including display control file and an index image corresponding to the <u>search</u> ~~searching~~ request that receives from the information providing server, and transmits the searched result to the client, wherein the index image displays a latest state of the first screen of the home page.

33.　(ORIGINAL) An information providing server according to claim 32, further comprising:

a creating section creating the index image data based on the display control file.

34.　(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An information providing server according to claim 32, wherein the index image data includes a piece of data for displaying the home page in which a display size of the home page displayed on the basis of the display control file on a screen of the client is reduced.

35.　(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An information providing server according to claim 32, wherein the index image displays the home page by a display size smaller than an original size.

36.　(NEW) An information providing method of an information providing server, comprising:

periodically generating and storing an index image displaying contents of a respective home page; and

displaying the respective index image based on a search request.

37.　(NEW) An information providing method according to claim 36, wherein the index image is generated upon receiving the search request.